



**your
voice at work**

Edmonton

ph. (780) 452.0362
toll free. 1.800.252.7975
fx. (780) 451.3099
14040 128 Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T5L 4M8

Calgary

Out of town
members call collect
ph. (403) 291.1047
fx. (403) 250.3412
#100, 46 Hopewell Way N.E.
Calgary, AB
T3J 5H7

Lethbridge

ph. (403) 328.4245
fx. (403) 320.9288
#104, 3305 18 Ave. N.
Lethbridge, AB
T1H 5S1

Brooks

ph. (403) 501.8486
fx. (403) 501.5144
P.O. Box 1148
631 - A Sutherland Dr. E.
Brooks, AB
T1R 1B9

Fort McMurray

ph. (780) 743.4190
fx. (780) 743.8312
#205, 9914 Morrison St.
Fort McMurray, AB
T9H 4A4

Dental:
1.866.961.6147

Dental (meats):
1.800.667.2816

Safeway PT Benefits:
1.866.544.9686

Superstore PT Benefits:
1.866.342.3513

Pension:
1.888.811.7227

www.ufcw401.ca
ufcw@ufcw401.ab.ca



December 18, 2020

(VIA EMAIL)

**Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta
Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health**

This is an urgent message, and we would appreciate your urgent and immediate attention.

The core principle to prevent the spread of COVID 19 is one of “social distancing”. Every other public health measure is largely an extension of this principle.

Recent steps to limit customer counts in retail stores to a 15% threshold are clearly steps in the right direction. There are, however, some clear deficiencies in this approach that are putting the health and lives of Albertans at stake.

You know us as the food workers’ union, but we are not just a grocery store union. We are the eyes of ears of public health in very large public places. These places see thousands of Albertans attend upon them every day. These places are grocery stores.

The 15% threshold is not working. These stores can still see 500 people in them at a time without any means to enforce social distancing, and consequently a mockery is being made of the desperate need for meaningful public health measures.

We are seeing 500 people jammed into, for example, the frontends of Real Canadian Superstores without any technical breach of the 15% guidelines. Attached is one photo of a typical situation at the frontend of a Superstore.

We request urgent, immediate, and sensible amendments to health regulations and urgent and immediate attendance upon supermarkets by enforcement officers.

The science is clear. Supermarkets are both part of the community and are communities in and of themselves. They can be a place with very heightened risks of transmission. We can think of few other places with such a large degree of population density.

We urgently ask that your attention to this is immediate given the time of year. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hesse
President, UFCW Local 401

Cc: Richelle Stewart
Chris O’Halloran
Michael Hughes
Matt Fox
Crystal Ducharme

United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Union, Local No. 401